

Serial No. 10/091,497

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section of the present application to correctly reflect the U.S. filing date of the parent application from which the present divisional application claims domestic priority.

**Applicants note that the Examiner still has not confirmed that the Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d)(4) included in the Preliminary Amendment of March 7, 2002 has been accepted and that the three inventors Applicants requested to be deleted have in fact been deleted. Applicants request that the Examiner expressly confirm that HIROSHI MUTO, SHINJI YOSHIHARA AND SUMITOMO INOMATA have been deleted as inventors in the present application.**

Claims 21-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being obvious in view of the combination of Yoshihara '741 and Yoshihara '593. Claim 32 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. With respect to remaining claims 21-31 and 33-40, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts *inter alia* that Yoshihara '741 teaches all aspects of the present invention as recited in claim 21 except for the bump disposed in the opening of the protective member, and that Yoshihara '593 makes up for this deficiency by teaching in FIG. 15B thereof a bump disposed on the surface of the semiconductor chip.

The Examiner's above assertion is incorrect at least for the reason that Yoshihara '593 does not disclose a bump disposed on the surface of the semiconductor wafer 1. Specifically,

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with respect to independent claim 21 and amended independent claim 31, the element R1 is not a bump, but rather is a roller that is used to closely adhere the second adhesive sheet 7 to the semiconductor wafer 1.

Therefore, because Yoshihara '593 fails to cure the deficiencies of the teaching of Yoshihara '741, the combination of references cited by the Examiner fails to render the present invention obvious, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 21-31 and 33-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Further, notwithstanding the fact that the above combination of references fails to render the present invention obvious, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to 35 USC §103(c), which states:

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Yoshihara '593, Yohshihara '741 and the present application were assigned to the same assignee, DENSO Corporation, at the time the present invention was made. Further, Yoshihara '593 and Yohshihara '741 qualify as prior art only under §102(e); both patents issued from applications have filing dates (Yoshihara '593; November 24, 1999 and Yohshihara '741; March 16, 1999) that are less than one year prior to the filing date of the parent application (Application Serial No. 09/525,514, filed on March 15, 2000) of the present divisional application.

Consequently, as neither reference can therefore be used as a reference under 35 USC §103, Applicants assert that the Examiner's rejection is improper and should therefore be withdrawn.

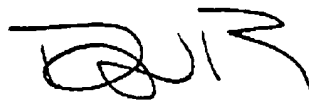
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The Examiner should note that claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 32 to place the claim in better allowable format and not in view of any of the cited references due to the inapplicability and improper application of the cited references as discussed above.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

A petition for a one-month extension of time, along with the requisite petition fee, is being submitted concurrently with this amendment. No additional fees are believed to be due. However, permission is hereby given to charge any unforeseen fees to Deposit Account 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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